

A joint newsletter from
The Friends of Crescent Beach,
Green Bay and Area Society &
the LaHave Islands Marine
Museum Society

CHANGING TIDES



www.crescentbeach.ca

www.lahaveislandsmarinemuseum.ca

Spring/Summer 2011 Edition:

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Got something to say?
Everyone is encouraged to
voice their opinions and share
their stories, book reviews
and observations. Simply
send your submissions to the
editor at
wordbyword@eastlink.ca.

Swept Clean!



It was "Beach Sweep" time on May 27th – the annual cleaning-and-sprucing of Crescent Beach. Many thanks to our volunteers who gathered on a foggy Friday to collect remnant trash from the beach, the dunes, the roadside, and the back bay. Extra big thanks go to Nick Jeffrey (aka "Mr. J.") and his grade 5 / 6 class from Petite Riviere Elementary School, who showed up en masse to lend a hand. The students were fantastic, and their enthusiasm for the task at hand was admirable. Arguably the "most gross" find of the day was a seal skeleton in the back bay (see lower picture). By the end of the morning, more than 20 bags of garbage were collected, making Crescent Beach a cleaner and prettier place for everyone!

Dead Man's Fingers: How Many Fingers? How Many Fish?

By Leah Kavan-Ross, LaHave, Nova Scotia

Walking on Crescent Beach is a utopian experience. This region is rich with bayberry, birch, grass, moss, rock, and spruce. The essence of this seascape can be encapsulated with fragrances of ocean spray, pine, and wild roses. It is here that warm sand sifts through fingers, toes dig into a cool layer, and everyone feels well with the world.

On Crescent Beach, morning light welcomes flights of eagles, gulls, and plovers. The quickening of new generations of creatures in the tidal zone erupts like a symphony. The embryonic lives develop into suitably equipped players to take part in the cycle of the living earth. And biogenesis ensures the planet of continual life. We can all become part of this little corner of the world, if only for a moment, and still be connected to it no matter how far we travel in the opposite direction.

This healthy shore thrives without chemicals and contaminants. Within the tidal zone, the ocean's food chain begins in a pure state. Renewed life sets forth to support the massive life-system beyond the ocean shelf. Fantastic species found here include anemones, clams, crabs, jellyfish, kelp, lobster, mussels, millions of fry, periwinkles, sea lettuce, sea stars, and urchins. These resilient creatures thrive in drastic temperature changes and stormy wave movement. Incredibly, even a little seahorse has the strength to hold onto seaweed in such force.

But Crescent Beach's tidal zone may not always be so safe. A foreign species of green alga has been hitching a ride on ships to Nova Scotia's shores. This spongy-branched alien is *Codium fragile* ssp. *Tomentosoides*, aka, Dead Man's Fingers. In infancy, it looks fuzzy with mat-like formations. With upright growth, it becomes heavy and droops. It latches onto rocks, shells, and hulls. Multiplying with invasive density, it damages kelp forests that ensure the survival of fish nurseries. This devil invades the world, including the entire east coast from the Gulf of St. Lawrence all the way to North Carolina. Dead Man's Fingers only has to break off one little finger to regenerate.



Dead Man's Fingers (photo courtesy of Leah Kavan-Ross)

C. fragile proliferates at an alarming rate. It feeds on nitrates seeping into waterways throughout the continent, entering the oceans on all shores. Nitrates develop from fish farms, and are in industrial chemicals used in fracking, fertilizers, pesticides, and waste we put on our lawns and fields, down our sinks and toilets. Nitrate contamination promotes unrelenting algal growth in tidal zones leaving in its wake of destruction a dead zone. South Shore fishermen agree that keeping our oceans uncontaminated is crucial to the survival of their livelihoods and the fishstocks.

Human activity has the power to eradicate new and old generations of creatures immediately. Nobody wants to see this happen to Crescent Beach. Care and protection of the tidal zone from wherever we live will keep shorelines such as Crescent Beach immeasurably beautiful. We will keep hearing laughter in the waves, see schools of sand dollars skimming in the shallows, and retain a living sanctuary. The songs of life will be endless and the symphony will play forever.

The footprints we make on earth have a direct effect on the number of fish in the sea. The connection we all have to the sea must be preserved. We are all intrinsically linked in the biogenesis that ensures the planet of continual biodiversity and continual life.

Art on the Riviere:

The Art of Howard Shankle: Crousetown's Artist of Nature



Woodland Stream, 1965
By Howard Shankle
© Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

Wesley Church Hall, Drew's Hill, Petite Riviere Exhibition: August 15th & 16th between 12 noon and 5pm Illustrated Lecture: August 15th & 16th at 7pm

The exhibition will include original art by Howard Shankle. The lectures will be given by Brian Oickle, National Gallery Docent, author, and Immediate Past President of the American Historical Print Collector's Society. Free-will offering accepted.

Shankle, the late artist-resident of Crousetown, has art in the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia as well as numerous public and private collections. He was a life-long resident of Crousetown and was essentially self-taught. Shankle created "magic realist" paintings and drawings of the area surrounding his home. He was a familiar, solitary figure walking the local roads, always looking for the perfect spot to sketch or photograph, and then spending months to complete each piece.

Rock and Roses:

We have been blessed with relatively calm weather over the last few seasons, which has allowed Crescent Beach to rebuild itself from Hurricane Noel. Fortunately, our experiments with snowfencing to capture and hold blown sand have also proved very successful. New fencing was installed this spring in weak spots along the dunes to continue that reinforcement.

FOCB has also purchased 100 new rose bushes, which have been planted between poles 8 and 10 by Lise Bell – with thanks. As with previous rose plantings, we anticipate that this will both anchor the sand and discourage foot traffic in those areas.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has just released its storm forecast for the 2011 hurricane season. If they are correct, we could be in for a very bad season, with 3-6 large storms predicted with winds in excess of 178 km/hr. In preparation, we have analyzed the situation at the beach. Dave Hughes (one the *FOCB*'s newest board members) has used his engineering expertise to identify a number of areas of concern. Using the pole numbers that were installed along the roadside last season, he has charted what he considers to be

twelve areas of great concern, and at a high risk for storm damage. Many of these weak areas are located at the mainland end of the beach, where the dunes are considerably less robust. He has also identified ten additional areas of medium-to-high risk, and six areas of lower risk to storm damage. He also made suggestions about realigning the walkways that *FOCB* has maintained.



Left: The first load of rock is delivered (note the exposure of the dunes in the rear). Middle: Rocks being individually placed into the cribwork. Right: The finished product! *All photos courtesy of Mary Fulleman*

Based on his guidelines, *FOCB* asked Greg Corkum of Greg Corkum Excavations to review the areas of concern. In some places we can move already existing rock to better protect the surrounding area. In other cases, new loads of rock will have to be purchased in order to supplement what already exists. *FOCB* continues its fundraising efforts year round, and has amassed a sufficient reserve to commission the work that has been suggested. Work began on May 25th, with Corkum's crew delivering seven new loads of rock, and doing the work that has been suggested. They are generously donating a portion of their effort to *FOCB* without charge, with the final bill projected at over \$3,000. Given the severity of what is predicted for this storm season, we feel this is an appropriate and responsible use of funds, and represents our best efforts to keep Mother Nature at bay while we protect this beautiful beach for the enjoyment of everyone. PLEASE SUPPORT *FOCB*'s CONTINUED EFFORTS BY BECOMING A MEMBER, OR BY MAKING A CHARITABLE DONATION TO THE ORGANIZATION. ONLY THROUGH OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS CAN WE CONTINUE TO UNDERTAKE THIS KIND OF ESSENTIAL WORK.

[From Our Readers:](#)

Where was Yankee Point? You asked this question in the Autumn 2010 edition of "Changing Tides." As you approach the village of Petite Riviere along the river road, you pass a shop on your right called "The Painted Saltbox." Then you pass one end of the Tannery Road, turn left, and go over a bridge. To the left of the bridge there used to be an old mill. I have seen ten or eleven yoke of oxen there, waiting patiently in line, their carts piled high with grain to be processed. It was a rare and wonderful sight.

To the right of the bridge, there is a tree with a sign on it, telling you much about the Atlantic Whitefish. A small grove lies behind it, between the river and Tannery Road. People sometimes camped and tented there. The river flowing by was what my father always referred to as Yankee Point. He often took me with him when he went fishing at Yankee Point. There were a number of good salmon pools in that location. It is a very beautiful part of the river. As far as I know, Yankee Point continues left, as the river flows downstream towards the second bridge.

Thank you.

Margaret Crickard, Drews Hill Road

Re: Friend

FOCB continues to do good work on behalf of the community, advocating for our coastal areas and fixing and maintaining infrastructures in order to make our beach areas safe and enjoyable for everyone. *FOCB* funds are primarily derived from independent fundraising ventures and from membership fees. The size of our membership is important not only as a source of revenue, but as an affirmation that we speak for the needs of the community.

In addition to our annual memberships, we recently approved a new level of membership for those of you who wish to assist in preserving the beaches of this region forever. **A lifetime membership has been added to our offerings at a one-time cost of \$100.**

Become a new *Friend* or *reFriend* your membership by sending us your name, email, or mailing address, phone number, and your cheque (\$10.00 single, \$20.00 family or \$100.00 lifetime) to: *Friends of Crescent Beach*, P.O. Box 148, LaHave, Nova Scotia B0R 1C0. (Tax receipts are provided on request as per government guidelines.)

Thank you for your ongoing support!

FOCB Annual AGM and Ice-Cream Social

Please join us at the Bell Island Community Hall on Wednesday, August 10th, 2011 at 7:00 pm for our annual general meeting. All interested *FOCB* members and non-members are encouraged to join in the discussion of issues relevant to the society. An ice-cream social will follow the meeting.

What Shall We Do Today?

June 18	8 am -11 am	Fireman's Breakfast, Petite Riviere Firehall
June 18	9 pm -1 am	Summer Solstice Dance with the Mellotones, \$18.00/person
June 25	9:30 pm -2 am	Dance, Gary Cummings with Joe Murphy and the Waterstreet Blues Band, \$15.00/person
July 16	8 am -11 am	Fireman's Breakfast, Petite Riviere Firehall
July 30	Time TBA	Clam Dig, Petite Riviere Firehall
August 10	7 pm	The Annual Friends of Crescent Beach AGM and ice cream social. Bell Island Community Hall. Everyone welcome.
August 15 & 16		The Art of Howard Shankle, Wesley Church Hall (details on page 3)
August 20	8 am -11 am	Fireman's Breakfast, Petite Riviere Firehall

For all Petite Riviere Firehall events, visit their new website at www.petiterivierefire.com



From the LaHave Islands Marine Museum

100 LaHave Islands Road, P.O. Box 69, LaHave, NS, B0R1C0



Open Daily June 1 to September 1 10:00 am - 5:00

The museum is now open for its 34th season and we certainly hope you will include us in your summer outings. This year we are counting on local support being even greater than the past as there are a number of economic factors which could have a negative impact on our out-of-province/country tourists. Furthermore, the student grant assistance we received is far lower than last year.

You can get a good overview of what we offer by taking a “virtual tour.” Just log onto the website www.novascotiamuseums.com . Then, after the virtual tour, please make sure you actually visit us. A review of our visitor register reveals comments such as “unique, a real treasure, worth the trip to the end of the road, we will be back, etc.”. Why not add us to your to-do list? Picnic tables are available. There is no admission charge, although donations to support the museum are greatly appreciated.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Summer Model Boat Display at museum. Tickets for sale on a model dory at \$1.00 each.

July/August Rug Hookers at Museum Hall each Monday from 10:00 am to 2 pm.

July 19 Delivery/Take-out Salad Supper, \$8.00. Call Nancy @ 688-1088 or Joan @ 688-2113 by July 12 to place your order.

Aug 1 Fun Day, Museum Hall, 136 LaHave Islands Rd.. 10:00am.to 1:00pm
(Barbeque, Cake Walks, Bake Table, and Children’s Activities)

Aug 14 Fisherman’s Memorial Service, 2:00pm., St. John’s Anglican Church, Bell Island

Sept 10 Baked Bean/Scalloped Potato/Ham Supper at Museum Hall , 4:00pm -6:00pm

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Annual Dues are only \$5.00 per person. If you have not renewed your membership, or if you wish to support the museum by becoming a member, you should either mail your dues to the LaHave Island’s Marine Museum, PO Box 69, LaHave B0R1C0, or drop it off at the museum. New members should include their address, phone number, and e-mail address (if applicable).

SOCIETY MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled for July 5th, August 2nd, September 6th, and November 1st. We would like to see more people attending our meetings as this is how you can keep informed on affairs of the Society.

Douglas Berrigan
President, 688-2170

Kathy Sullivan
Curator, 688-2478